

# **Governor's Cabinet on Chronic & Long Term Care**

**Thursday, July 13, 2006**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Members Present:**

**Corinne Calise Russo, Co-Chair, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs, Co-Chair**

**Jane A. Hayward, Secretary, Executive Office of Health & Human Services**

**Ronald A. Lebel, Esq., Director, Department of Human Services**

**David Gifford, MD, MHP, Director, Department of Health**

**Ellen Nelson, Ph.D., Director, MHRH**

**Rollin Bartlett, designee, Department of Business Regulation**

### **Attendees:**

**John Young**

**Frank Spinelli**

**Donna Cone, Ph.D.**

**Paula Parker**

**Mary Ann Ciano**

**Maria Nunez**

**Bob Cooper**

**Elaina Goldstein**

**Holly Garvey**

**Rhonda Schwartz**

**Andy Gauthier**

**Ellen Mauro**

**Patricia Rajotte**

**Delia Rodriguez**

**Kathleen Heren**

**Christopher Novak**

**Bill Inlow**

**Cynthia Conant-Arp**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

**Corinne Calise Russo, Director, Department of Elderly Affairs,  
Co-Chair**

**Chairwoman Russo opened the meeting at 1:10 p.m. with welcoming remarks and a review of the previous Cabinet meeting minutes for any additions and/or corrections. The meeting minutes of the May 11, 2006 were approved without change.**

### **The Point**

**Delia Rodriguez, Department of Elderly Affairs**

**Delia Rodriguez reported that DEA is submitting a two year grant application for \$400,000 to fund and develop services at The Point. DEA will increase visibility and provide access to walk-in centers for direct client services across the state by partnering with Crossroads Rhode Island, Ocean State Independent Living (OSIL), and community agencies in the East Bay and Newport. Currently, Crossroads Rhode Island offers direct client services and assistance by appointment**

and to walk-ins.

## **Healthy Aging with Chronic Disease**

**Donna Cone, Ph.D., DEA**

**Donna Cone informed the group that DEA is submitting a three year grant application to AoA for \$300,000 per year to fund the Stanford Model of Healthy Aging with Chronic Disease in Rhode Island. The grant opportunity, Empowering Older People to Take More Control of their Health through Evidence Based Prevention Programs will partner DEA, DHS, DOH, MHRH and Brown University Center for Gerontology. The mission is to “engage, educate, and empower Rhode Islanders of all ages and cultures to manage their lives in the face of chronic health conditions and disabilities.” The Rhode Island Team members are Donna Cone, Ph.D., Team Leader (DEA); Ellen Mauro, RN, MPH (DHS); Patricia Rajotte (DOH); Delia Rodriguez (DEA); Edward Martin, MD (MHRH) and Susan Allen, Ph.D.,(Brown University Center for Gerontology and Health Services).**

**Ellen Mauro reported that the Connect Care Program began in 2001 educating individuals on how to improve their wellness so they could continue to live independently in the community. The program incorporated chronic care education, home based supportive care, office visits and physician home visits to increase primary care. Patient satisfaction surveys were positive for managing their illness**

**and knowing who to contact for information.**

**Patricia Rajotte informed the group that the evidence based Stanford Model gives specific examples of tools to change thinking and actions when managing chronic disease. The Model will train 26 master trainers from both community and faith based organizations to reach all ethnic communities across the state. The master trainers will provide a network of support and referrals to the community and health insurance providers.**

**Delia Rodriguez stated cultural peers will educate minority groups on their medications, disease and care management, as well as encourage them to ask questions of their physicians.**

**Director Russo would like to develop a tool to assist an individual on how and what questions to ask a physician regarding their care management and medication. Dr. Gifford reported that the Primary Care Provider Advisory Committee is focusing on patient access, disease management and technology in developing a chronic care model.**

**Para Transit Task Force**

**Jane Hayward, EOHHS**

**Secretary Hayward stated she serves as Chair of the eight members and one non-voting ex-officio member of the Paratransit Task Force**

reconvened by the Governor in an Executive Order issued on June 13, 2006. The Task Force is charged with improving the mobility of Rhode Islanders, with particular emphasis on the elderly and disabled population. The Executive Order names the Directors of DEA, MHRH, DHS, the Executive Secretary of the Governor's Commission on Disabilities, the General Manager of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority or their designee. The Governor will appoint 3 public members; one a paratransit consumer. Secretary Hayward asked that public member nominations and background information be forwarded to her office. She acknowledged that the paratransit consumer member will lend a unique perspective on service delivery and consumer satisfaction. Secretary Hayward reported that the Task Force will prepare an annual report to the Governor of procurements and program performance. The group will meet monthly.

## **Office of Elder Protection**

**Paula Parker**

Paula Parker announced the appointment of Mary Ann Ciano as Supervisor of the Protective Services Unit and welcomed Rhonda Schwartz, DEA's new legal counsel. She reported substantive changes in the daily operations of the Protective Services Unit; personnel have recently completed automated client intake training; record documentation standardized; revised forms; the formation of teams for daily department coverage and case investigation; and the coordination of community partners and reporting.

## **Other Business and Announcements**

**Bob Cooper detailed the two bills signed by the Governor relating to criminal offenses, assaults and abuse/neglect of persons with severe impairments. He also stated that next year a bill will be introduced which would provide assistance for families to receive respite care. Mr. Cooper announced the 5 Public Forums to identify the concerns of people with disabilities and their families; July 24 at 3:00 pm in Newport; July 25 at 4:00 pm in Pascoag; July 26 at 11:00 am in Pawtucket and 3:00 pm in Kingston and July 27 at 4:30 pm in Warwick.**

**Dr. Gifford announced that there would be an August hearing to discuss the addition of a Geriatric Psych Unit at South County Hospital.**

**Chairwoman Russo adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.**